

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SAA-02 SSO-00 INRE-00
NSCE-00 ICAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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/087 W

-----030412 061152Z /47

O 061105Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8571
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3750

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: LE, SY, PEPR, PINT, PINS
SUBJ: REMARKS OF PRIME MINISTER'S PRIVATE SECRETARY ON
SYRIAN INTENTIONS

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF ON JULY 6, ABDUL RAHMAN
SHAYKA, PRIVATE SECRETARY OF THE PRIME MINISTER, SAID THE
FOLLOWING. THE SYRIANS HAD POSED TWO FUNDAMENTAL CONDITIONS
FOR A CESSATION TO THE FIGHTING:

A. THE RIGHT TO DEPLOY SYRIAN ADF FORCES ANYWHERE IN
LEBANON;

B. THE DISARMAMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN MILITIA.

2. THE SYRIANS HAD ALSO INDICATED THAT THEY WANTED SA'D
HADDAD, SAMI SHIDIAC, AND OTHER EXTREMIST CHRISTIAN OFFICERS
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EXPELLED FROM THE ARMY, BUT THIS WAS NOT REPEAT NOT AN
ESSENTIAL CONDITION TO ENDING THE PRESENT FIGHTING. THE
SYRIANS HAD ALSO NOT MADE DEPLOYMENT OF THE ARMY TO THE
SOUTH A CONDITION FOR THE END OF THE PRESENT FIGHTING.
SHAYKA SAID THE SYRIANS WERE CLEARLY AIMING TO PUNISH THE
PHALANGE.

3. SHAYKA SAID THERE WAS NO HOPE FOR IMPROVEMENT IN THE SITUATION UNTIL JULY 8 WHEN THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD BE GOING TO DAMASCUS. SHAYKA CLAIMED THAT THE SYRIANS WERE SIMPLY UNWILLING TO SETTLE THE PROBLEM WITH FOREIGN MINISTER FUAD BOUTROS AS THE GOL REPRESENTATIVE. SHAYKA SAW SOME ROOM FOR OPTIMISM IN THE FACT THAT THE SYRIANS WERE RECEIVING HOSS IN DAMASCUS, BECAUSE THEY WOULD NOT WANT TO SEE THE PRIME MINISTER COME BACK EMPTY-HANDED.

4. SHAYKA SAID THAT PRESIDENTS SARKIS AND ASSAD, WHEN THEY MET IN LATAKIA LAST MONTH, HAD NOT REPEAT NOT REACHED A FIRM AGREEMENT ON THE EXPULSION OF EXTREMIST CHRISTIAN OFFICERS FROM THE LEBANESE ARMY OR ON DEPLOYMENT OF THE LEBANESE ARMY SOUTH. RATHER, ASSAD HAD INDICATED HIS INTEREST IN THESE TWO MATTERS AND SARKIS HAD LISTENED SYMPATHETICALLY.
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